

Oxfordshire Public Service Board

Targets for Oxfordshire's Local Area Agreement 2

5th February 2008

The Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 (LAA2)

The Government has reduced the number of indicators by which it measures the performance of local authorities from about 1200 to 198 (+16 mandatory targets / indicators for Children and Young People).

In order to drive improvement in performance and test our effectiveness in working together to improve outcomes for local people, the Government requires that we agree improvement targets for up to 35 of those 198 indicators (+ 16 mandatory targets / indicators for Children and Young People).

This will be our Local Area agreement with the government for the next 3 years.

Funding issues are covered in the following agenda item on the finance model for LAA2.

Agreeing strategic priorities for the county area

In April 2007 the Oxfordshire Partnership started on the process of developing a long term vision for the county area. In December 2007 the Partnership agreed that the strategic priorities for Oxfordshire are :

- A World Class Economy:
- Healthy and thriving communities:
- Environment and climate change:
- And a cross-cutting theme of tackling inequalities and breaking the cycle of deprivation.

The Partnership agreed to support a range of actions and targets to meet those priorities.

The LAA and the Oxfordshire Partnership's Delivery Plan

The Partnership is developing an overall Delivery Plan. This will include LAA targets and other local targets agreed by the Partnership as being important to improving outcomes and quality of life for local people.

This will enable the Partnership to measure progress on all our priorities while holding each other accountable for delivery.

How we arrived at the list of 35 LAA targets

Partnerships were asked to make proposals and a long-list of about 70 possible targets was submitted to GOSE on 15th January for initial comments. GOSE's response was positive with many areas of agreement on priorities.

Further work was then done by the LAA Development Group (officers from county and district councils, PCT, voluntary sector, SEEDA) and the LAA Steering Group (County Council Assistant Chief Executive, City Chief Executive representing all the Districts, PCT and Police) to reduce this list to 35 proposed targets using the following criteria – targets :

1. Are about outcomes rather than processes;
2. Have a clear link to an indicator;
3. Have a focus on groups (people) or localities (places);
4. Involve partnership working in delivery;
5. Contribute to a balance of targets reflecting our strategic priorities.

Proposals which met criteria 3, 4 & 5 but didn't fully meet 1 & 2 are strong candidates for local targets in the Partnership's overall Delivery Plan.

Further development

All of these proposals require further work to set the targets (what we are aiming to achieve / the amount of improvement or "stretch") supported by action/delivery plans which are resourced (how we are going to achieve the target).

In some cases baselines (on which to base the amount of proposed improvement) do not yet exist because the indicators are new. These will need to be set in the first year. This does not preclude those responsible for the target from commencing work to meet its broad aims from April 2008.

Within the list of draft targets there are 8 perception indicators (NIs 1/6/8/21/163/164/177/198). Whilst we have some reservations about including public perception indicators because of the inherent difficulties of influencing the outcome, there are a small number and we believe that it is sensible to include those which touch on key issues for all partners.

We have also included a value for money indicator on the basis that this is a key issue for local authorities. The extent to which district and county councils might commit to improvement beyond the existing 3% per annum efficiency target is still under discussion.

Next steps

Those involved in developing targets are required to develop the information needed to set the target by the end of February. This includes any further work on trend and baseline information, action plans, risk management and how any resource issues will be resolved.

The LAA will be agreed with GOSE by the end of March.

GOSE will discuss our LAA with Government and negotiations will take place in April and May.

The Partnership's Delivery Plan (LAA and non-LAA / local targets) will be developed in April and May.

The LAA will be agreed with Government and signed off by the Public Service Board in June.

Oxfordshire 2030 (the sustainable community strategy) will be adopted by the Oxfordshire Partnership in June.

Recommendations

The Public Service Board is asked to :

1. Agree the list of 35 LAA targets in principle.
2. Instruct officers to develop the information required so that targets can be set with Government.
3. Instruct the LAA2 Steering Group to test the soundness and quality of targets before they are submitted.
4. Receive a further report on progress at the next Public Service Board meeting.
5. Note that
 - a weekly LAA Bulletin is being circulated amongst the Oxfordshire Partnership to inform partners and elected members of progress and issues to date.
 - up to date information about LAA2 and Oxfordshire 203 is available from the partnership's website www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk

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31st January 2008